

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (New) An image sensor, comprising:
a plurality of photosensitive sites arranged into an active area and a non-active area, wherein the photosensitive sites in the active area are used to capture an image; and
an opaque plate covering at least a portion of the photosensitive sites in the non-active area, wherein the opaque plate includes one or more openings positioned at predetermined locations over respective photosensitive sites in the non-active area to form a unique pattern that is associated with the image sensor.

Claim 15. (New) The image sensor of claim 14, wherein the opaque plate comprises a metal plate.

Claim 16. (New) The image sensor of claim 14, wherein the one or more openings positioned at predetermined locations over respective photosensitive sites in the non-active area provides for electronic identification of the image sensor without affecting an image captured by the plurality of photosensitive sites in the active area.

Claim 17. (New) The image sensor of claim 14, wherein the unique pattern of one or more openings identifies individually or in any combination a particular manufacturer, a lot, a wafer, and a location of the image sensor on the wafer.

Claim 18. (New) The image sensor of claim 14, wherein the image sensor is included in an image capture device.

Claim 19. (New) An image sensor comprising:

a plurality of photosensitive sites arranged in rows and columns to form an array, wherein the array includes an active area and a non-active area and the photosensitive sites in the active area are used to capture an image;

a drain formed adjacent a column of photosensitive sites in the non-active area; and

a barrier disposed between the drain and the column of photosensitive sites, wherein the barrier includes an opening positioned at a predetermined location with respect to the column of photosensitive sites such that charge generated by at least a portion of the photosensitive sites in the column of photosensitive sites is transferred to the drain to create a partially dead column of photosensitive sites, and wherein the predetermined location provides a unique identifier that is associated with the image sensor.

Claim 20. (New) The image sensor of claim 19, wherein the drain comprises a lateral overflow drain.

Claim 21. (New) The image sensor of claim 19, wherein the image sensor is included in an image capture device.